

## RECOMMENDATION FOR HONOR OR MERIT AWARD

(Submit eight copies with: description of performance or service warranting award; biographic profile; and unclassified citation)

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1. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.			2. NAME OF PERSON RECOMMENDED (Last, First, Middle)			3. POSITION TITLE					
			FBIS/Panama Bureau								
4. GRADE	5. YOB	6. SD	7. OFFICE OF ASSIGNMENT	8. EXTENSION	9. RECOMMENDED AWARD						
		RF	FBIS		Meritorious Unit Citation - FBIS Panama Bureau						
10. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED				11. IF RETIRING, DATE OF RETIREMENT		12. POSTHUMOUS					
June 1987 - May 1988						<table border="1"><tr><td>YES</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr></table>			YES		NO
YES		NO									
13. HOME ADDRESS (Include ZIP CODE)				14. NAME OF SPOUSE		15. HOME PHONE					

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Have any other persons received or been recommended for an award for this service or act?

- ☐ yes (If yes, attach list of full names and awards.)  
☒ no

RECOMMENDATION		DATE
Acting Chief, Operations Group, FBIS		6 July 1988
HEAD OF <u>RF</u> CAREER SERVICE (Career service of nominee)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadcast Information Service	DATE 11 JUL 1988
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICE	TITLE AND SIGNATURE R. E. Hineman, Deputy Director for Science and Technology	DATE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATING COMPONENT	TITLE AND SIGNATURE	DATE

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## REPORT OF HONOR AND MERIT AWARDS BOARD

The Honor and Merit Awards Board having considered the foregoing recommendation on \_\_\_\_\_:

- ☐ recommends approval  
☐ does not recommend approval  
☐ recommends award of

REMARKS

APPROVED

SIGNATURE

TYPED NAME OF CHAIRMAN, HONOR AND MERIT AWARDS BOARD

SIGNATURE

TYPED NAME OF RECORDER

DATE

FBIS-2026/88

11 JUL 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: R. W. Manners  
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Meritorious Unit Citation -  
Panama Bureau

1. I recommend that FBIS Panama Bureau be awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for sustained superior performance for the period June 1987 through May 1988 in providing U.S. Government consumers with voluminous, timely, and accurate reporting on Latin American affairs during a period of substantial work-related and personal stress and occasional physical danger.

2. The Panama Bureau has been and continues to be a primary source for information on the continuing tense relationship between the United States and Panama. From the U.S. indictment of General Noriega on drug-related charges, his attempted dismissal by President Delvalle, Delvalle's subsequent dismissal, and the extended general strike and coup attempt, FBIS has provided a wealth of vital and timely information to consumers in Panama, Washington, Latin America, and worldwide. As an example of the demand for the bureau's product, it received ten telephone calls, ranging from the local embassy DCM's office to the office of the commander of the U.S. Army South, for a translation of President Delvalle's statement dismissing General Noriega. The political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Panama said: "FBIS saves our lives."

3. Panama Bureau's coverage is not limited to Panama. During this same timeframe, it filed extensively on developments connected with the Central American peace plan, including the Central American presidents' summit meeting, Nicaraguan and other Latin American reaction to the plan, and reaction to the sending of the U.S. 82d Airborne troops to Honduras. Other significant developments covered were the Ecuadoran presidential elections, kidnappings and executions in Colombia's drug war, Honduran reaction to the extradition of alleged drug kingpin Ramon Matta, and major speeches by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro on the highly publicized defector and corruption cases.

4. During some of the bureau's busiest periods, in January, February, and March 1988, the monitorial, editorial, and communications functions were totally automated. The installation of the equipment and the extensive training required of bureau personnel to operate the equipment added to the already heavy burden under which bureau personnel were operating. It is to the professional credit of the entire bureau staff that the automation program was implemented without any reduction in wordage or any disruption of the services provided its many consumers.

5. The bureau also continued to participate in the editorial trainee program, intensively training two Headquarters editors at a time for a period of three months to prepare them for PCS assignments. The bureau's last trainee departed in early April after which it was decided that the political situation was too uncertain to allow for further travel at this time.

6. It is a great tribute to the abilities and professionalism of Panama Bureau's employees that they have been able to maintain a high level of performance while experiencing tension in their daily lives. Each has been affected by the strife in Panama and the Panamanian Government's threatening propaganda campaign against Americans there. Most have experienced the threat of physical danger at one time or another.

7. I believe the bureau's employees are deserving of recognition both for their efforts under extremely tense circumstances and for the dedication to excellence they have displayed in carrying out their mission. I believe a Meritorious Unit Citation is a good way to provide that recognition.

R. W. Manners

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APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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DDS&T/EO/Ops/FBIS  (28Jun88)

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CITATION

FBIS Panama Bureau

Is hereby awarded a

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

In recognition of its sustained superior performance during the period June 1987 through May 1988 in providing U.S. Government consumers with voluminous, timely, and accurate reporting on Latin American affairs. The Panama Bureau staff provided U.S. Government policy makers with significant information during a time of increased focus on and concern over U.S. relations with Panama and Nicaragua and other Latin American countries. That the staff was able to do this while experiencing tension and, at times, physical danger in their daily lives is a great tribute to their dedication and professionalism. This very substantial achievement brings credit to the bureau, FBIS, and the U.S. Government.